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Dedicated to the men and women of Highland
who served in the armed forces of the
United States in World War II,
to those still in the service,
and particularly to those
who will not return.

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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MAY 30, 1946

10:30 A.M.

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DEDICATION

of

HIGHLAND MEMORIAL LIBRARY

by

JUDGE ORA L. WILDERMUTH

This day has been set apart as the day when the American people pay tribute to the memory of those who have died to establish, to maintain and to defend that liberty and independence vouched safe for all Americans by that Declaration penned by Jefferson and signed by our forefathers who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to the success of our young nation. Today we meet here to pay a dual tribute. First, we join with all Americans to pay a general tribute to all those brave men who have laid down their lives in all our wars, but we particularly memorialize those fine young men of this community who marched away to this war to defend their country and ours and did not come back but who sleep beneath the sod of many lands. They gave their all that you and I might be spared the disaster, the ruin and the suffering that is and has been the lot of many peoples; all honor to them. Second, we of the library world pay tribute to the members of the Lions Club of Highland, who,by the giving so generously of their time, their talents and their money, have reared here this monument to the memory of those honored dead of

this war lately ended. To those of you who gave generously of your money and your labor to make this building possible, we are devoutly thankful.

We are here today to dedicate this building as a public library and to pledge its maintenance as a living, useful and everlasting memorial to those gallant men. We must here and now dedicate ourselves to the task that is now ours to hold high the torch of freedom which these loyal sons of this community have so lately passed on to us. We must dedicate ourselves and all of those who come after us ever to keep on the shelves within this edifice those priceless volumes upon whose deathless pages have been and will be written the truths and wisdom of the ages, that those who will may read and learn and know the truth about all things.

If I were to choose a motto to inscribe on this building it would be the words of the Master: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free." All through the pages of the history of our Republic we can trace the ever present thought of those who founded and preserved this nation that a democracy

such as ours cannot long endure save by enlightened and intelligent body politic. We have been ever jealous of our schools and the means of education and we must not lower our guard in this respect if we are to remain free. How much better it is that you have erected as a memorial a useful building rather than a mere cold stone reminding us only of death. This living building will stand as a reminder that they who died, once lived and that they died that we might live more securely, live to make possible the ideals for which they fought. Those who died now rest in peace; those of us who live must achieve peace that not again shall the sons of Highland march off to war and not come back.

Every war shocks us, who survive, into a realization of the awfulness of war, of its devastation and destruction, and we hope and sometimes pray that there will be no more war. We read again the prophetic verse of Tennyson written over a century ago and hope that now at last his dream may come true and that the war drums may beat no longer, that the battle flags may remain furled and that we may live in a parliament

of man, a federation of the world. But never before have we seen a full realization of all his prophecy. This time we saw his dream fulfilled and enacted with all its fury. May I read again what he wrote and what most of you have read many times.

"For I dipped into the future, far as human
eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the
wonder that would be;

Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies
of magic sails,
Pilot of the purple twilight, dropping
down with costly bales;

Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and
there rain'd a ghastly dew
For the nations' airy navies grappling
in the central blue;

Far along the world-wide whisper of the
south-wind rushing warm,
With the standards of the peoples plunging
thro' the thunder-storm.

Till the war-drum throbb'd no longer,
and the battle-flags were furl'd
In the Parliament of man, the Federation
of the world."

Never before did we see the heavens filled with commerce but in this war we saw the nations' armies and navies grappling far into the blue of the heavens. If there be survivor of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he

knows now what Tennyson meant by the rain of a ghastly dew. With the navigation of the air made easy and the use of atomic energy as an agent of destruction war has become far more deadly and destructive. Indeed it is doubtful if human civilization can survive another war. No longer can we hope to maintain our freedom by a marching army. Gone are the days when our nation can be made safe by oratorical appeal to patriotic impulses on our national holidays. Armies cannot again defend our peoples. In the war just ended, the death toll of civilians was far greater than that of the army and navy,witness the utter slaughter of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A few scientists,probably classifiable as physically unfit,working in the cloister of some university laboratory can concoct an instrumentality sufficient to destroy instantly a whole army. And don't lull yourself into a feeling of security with the thought that we alone can make atomic bombs. Others can make them soon and will if not restrained by some superior power. All of which means that the United Nations Organization must not fail. It was given a

great head start at San Francisco Conference when the representatives of war weary nations worked as crusaders, but since the war drums are still the organization is in fact deteriorating into a forum of power politics. It must be rescued and put back on the plane where it started and America must lead the way. The responsibility is great, the opportunity is magnificent, but to succeed we must marshall the best brains possible and keep the output of brains on a high production level. And there must ever be maintained a high level of popular understanding of the problems and the solutions.

For the task ahead will not be easy. While transportation has been made fast and easy and communications flow quickly among nations, yet the world is still made up of peoples whose religions are varied, whose languages, customs, habits and manners of life are different. To bring all these peoples with their different educational backgrounds, their different ideologies and their different economic structures into co-hesive and unselfish thinking is a task requiring leadership and brains of the highest order

and new leaders and fresh brainpower must ever be forthcoming to transfuse the tiring arteries of this organization that it may live and grow and continue a controlling influence for peace.

There lies the duty of the schools and libraries of the nation. The schools for peace must keep one step ahead of the laboratories of destruction. In the laboratories of the world lie the means of world destruction; in the libraries of the world lie the means of world peace.

DEDICATION PROGRAM

National Anthem — Audience
Led by Mrs. Wilbur Vierk

Address of Dedication — Judge Ora L. Wildermuth

Dedicatory Prayer — Rev. Frederick G. Tyrell

Raising of Flag at Library

Presentation of Memorial Volume
By Forest Schmal to Richard B. Sealock

Presentation of Key to Library
By Robert Lowery to War Mothers,
Mrs. M. Phillips and Mrs. Ben H. Spoorman

Opening of Library for Inspection

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A record of the dedication ceremonies, Highland

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